CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A removable-unit storage module, comprising:

5 a housing;

storage cells arranged within the housing; robotic hands to retrieve objects from the storage cells; and

substantially parallel rows of configurable

10 instances of tracks attached to the housing on which the robotic hands can travel;

wherein the module is mobile.

- 2. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
- 15 1, wherein a multiplicity of such modules are configured to work as an organized array.
 - 3. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
 - 1, wherein storage cells, robotic hands and tracks are on
- 20 both sides of the module.
 - 4. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
 - 1, further comprising an elevator mechanism for moving robotic hands from one row of tracks to another.

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- 5. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
- 1, wherein the parallel tracks spiral around the module from bottom to top.

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- 6. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
- 1, further comprising bridge tracks to connect the rows of tracks on opposite sides of the module.
- 5 7. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 6, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected from the module dynamically.
- 8. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
 10 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected and
 disconnected from the module independently of each other.
- 9. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be adapted to a variable distance between modules.
 - 10. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be adapted dynamically to the distance between modules while at least one of the modules is in motion.
 - 11. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 7, wherein the bridge tracks can be connected and disconnected from the module together as a column.
 - 12. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, wherein the robotic hands move in one direction for each row of tracks.
- 30 13. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, wherein the storage cells hold data storage devices.

- 14. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, wherein the storage cells hold inventory items.
- 5 15. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, wherein the storage cells are arranged in a rule based structure within the housing.
- 16. The removable-unit storage module according to claim10 1, further comprising means for self-locomotion.
 - 17. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 16, further comprising an automatic guidance system.
- 15 18. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 16, further comprising means to continue module activity as part of a storage array while the module is in motion.
- 19. The removable-unit storage module according to claim
 20 16, further comprising means to continue module activity
 independent of the original array of storage modules
 while in transition to membership in a new array.
- 20. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 25 16, further comprising manual remote control guidance.
 - 21. The removable-unit storage module according to claim 1, further comprising an external skin and frame to prevent the robotic hands from snagging objects.
 - 22. A removable-unit storage network, comprising:

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multiple removable-unit storage modules; and bridge tracks which connect the storage modules; wherein the bridge tracks allow robotic hands to move between tracks.

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23. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 22, wherein the bridge tracks allow robotic hands to move between tracks on different storage modules and retrieve units from the modules.

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- 24. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 22, wherein the bridge tracks can be dynamically connected to and disconnected from tracks on the modules.
- 15 25. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 24, wherein the bridge tracks can be independently connected to and disconnected from tracks on the modules.
- 26. The removable-unit storage network according to 20 claim 24, wherein several rows of bridge tracks can be connected to and disconnected as a unit from tracks on the modules.
- 27. The removable-unit storage network according to
 25 claim 22, further comprising meta data within each module
 which contains information about the resources available
 to that module at a given time.
- 28. The removable-unit storage network according to 30 claim 27, wherein the meta data comprises: the number of robotic arms;

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the location of the robotic arms; the identity of stored units; and the location of stored units.

- 5 29. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data is stored for short time intervals.
- 30. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 29, wherein the meta data storage is associated with the module.
 - 31. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 30, wherein such association persists when the module is moved.
 - 32. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 30, wherein such association persists when the module is reconfigured via moving bridges.
 - 33. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data is stored in a non-volatile memory storage medium.
- 25 34. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 27, wherein the meta data of separate modules are: integrated when modules are connected; and decoupled when modules are disconnected.

35. The removable-unit storage network according to claim 22, wherein specific users have access to specific modules within the network.